



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## South Africa

**Kruger Park Bird & Wildlife Challenge 2019 -**

**Zaagkuildrift Road Day Trip**

*16<sup>th</sup> February 2019*



The stunning Crimson-breasted Shrike, by James Wakelin



**Violet-eared Waxbill by Steve Davis**

After meeting in the bustling metropolis of Johannesburg, we venture northwards to the Pienaarsrivier / Rust de Winter area, roughly 60km north of Pretoria. Here we will explore the rich *Vachellia* (formerly *Acacia*) bushveld and other habitats along the legendary Zaagkuil drift Road. Stretching for a distance of 26km, this road tracks the course of the Pienaars River before reaching the semi-rural village of Kgomo-Kgomo. Lush, riverine woodland flanks the Pienaars River, while other bird-rich habitats range from low, open scrub to Kalahari-like savanna with picturesque Camelthorn trees (*Vachellia erioloba*).

Included in the bounty of bushveld specials are a host of bird species typical of the drier west of the country, most of which reach the eastern limit of their range here. Possible highlights along this fabulous road include the outrageous Crimson-breasted Shrike, Burchell's Starling, Acacia Pied Barbet, Northern Black Korhaan, Black-chested Prinia, Violet-eared and Black-faced Waxbills, Scaly-feathered Weaver and Red-headed Finch, as well as more widespread species such as Gabar Goshawk, the elusive Ovambo Sparrowhawk,



**Scaly-feathered Weaver by Clayton Burne**

Purple and European Rollers, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Marico Flycatcher, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Southern Pied Babbler, Groundscraper and the recently split Karoo Thrushes, Ashy Tit, White-browed Sparrow Weaver, Cut-throat Finch, Great Sparrow, gorgeous Shaft-tailed Whydah and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.

During mid to late summer, the road is a hotspot for Western Palearctic warblers such as Olive-tree, Icterine, Marsh and River, as well as Common Whitethroat and Thrush Nightingale.



**Southern Pied Babbler by Cuan Rush**



**Striped Crake by Adam Riley**

Eventually we will reach the small village of Kgomo-Kgomo where the main road crosses an extensive floodplain. During wet seasons (and usually only from late December through February) when conditions are right and the floodplain and bordering grasslands are inundated by rising river levels, this can be an excellent area to locate specials such as Allen's Gallinule, Lesser Moorhen, Dwarf Bittern, Greater Painted-snipe, African, Baillon's, Spotted and Striped Crakes, Pallid and Montagu's Harriers, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Western Yellow Wagtail and Quailfinch.

The taller grasses at the edge of the floodplain hold numerous displaying Yellow-crowned Bishops and White-winged Widowbirds. The surrounding grasslands and fields are often heavily grazed and this provides perfect habitat for Temminck's Courser, Greater Kestrel, Capped Wheatear and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark.

In the late afternoon we return to Johannesburg.

### **Financial Arrangements:**

The prices for the Zaagkuildrift Road day trip are as follows:

- 1 participant = **ZAR 6 450** per person
- 2 participants = **ZAR 4 050** per person
- 3 participants = **ZAR 3 500** per person
- 4 participants = **ZAR 3 500** per person
- 5 participants = **ZAR 3 300** per person
- 6 participants = **ZAR 3 100** per person

### **The trip price includes:**

- Lunch with a refreshment on the day;
- Ground transportation in a Toyota Corolla or similar (1 to 3 participants), VW Kombi T5 or similar (4 to 6 participants) and related fuel costs;
- Guiding services & costs of a locally based, Rockjumper leader/guide.

### **The trip price excludes:**

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** international or domestic flights (and associated taxes);
- Bottled drinking water, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages;



**Yellow-crowned Bishop by Adam Riley**

- ANY gratuities and
- Gift shop purchases, telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

a) The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold (ZAR), and the actual cost in any other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

c) These costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

**Tipping:**

As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:**

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will officially commence at **06:00am** at your accommodation in Johannesburg. You will be met by your Rockjumper leader and will then continue onto the first birding site of the day. Further meeting details in this regard will be forwarded to you in due course. The day trip will conclude by **18:00pm**.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

**FLIGHTS:**

O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg (IATA: JNB) is the main port of entry for international flights into and out of South Africa and is well serviced by all of the world's major airlines. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

---

**Rockjumper Birding Ltd**  
River View Commercial Centre  
Black River  
Mauritius

**Tel:** (USA & Canada) toll-free: 1-888-990-5552  
**Email:** [info@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:info@rockjumperbirding.com)  
**Alternative email:** [rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com](mailto:rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com)  
**Website:** [www.rockjumperbirding.com](http://www.rockjumperbirding.com)